

The Gary Crusader, as the company celebrates its 55th anniversary, 55 Years Highlighting our Past and Crusading for our Future. In honor of this special occasion, an anniversary gala will be held in the Hangar at B. Coleman Aviation, located at the Gary/Chicago International Airport, on June 3, 2016. The keynote speaker for the event is critically acclaimed author and renowned scholar, Michael Eric Dyson.

The Gary Crusader is a weekly publication serving the City of Gary and the community of Northwest Indiana. Since its founding in 1961, by the late Balm L. Leavell Jr. and Joseph H. Jefferson, at the invitation of Kelly and Samuel Polk, the Crusader successfully upheld its mission, using its news pages to reflect on justice and equality for all people. In 1968, Mrs. Dorothy Leavell took over as editor and publisher of The Gary Crusader, after the passing of her husband, Balm Leavell. Throughout the years, Dorothy has been a strong, accomplished, and innovative business leader. The Gary Crusader is an active member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), a federation of the more than 200 African American-owned community newspapers throughout the United States. In 1995, Dorothy became the second female in history to become president of the NNPA for a two-year term and served at its president from 1995 to 1999. She also served as chairperson of the NNPA Foundation from 2006 to 2011. In August 2016, Mrs. Leavell will be inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Black Journalists. For her dedication to the City of Gary and the community of Northwest Indiana, Dorothy is worthy of the highest praise.

I would like to take the time to mention some of the inspiring leaders in Northwest Indiana who have worked with The Gary Crusader to bring about positive change and to inspire the community. They include former mayor of Gary Richard Hatcher, the late Lake County Commissioner Roosevelt Allen, The Gary Crusader's first female editor, the late Dolly Millender, State Senator Earline Rogers, and Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, who is the honorary chairperson of the 55th anniversary gala. I would also be remiss if I do not mention the respect my father John Visclosky had for Balm Leavell and the importance he attached to their wonderful friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating The Gary Crusader on its 55th anniversary. For the past 55 years, the staff and leadership have touched the lives of countless individuals through their unwavering commitment to the community of Gary and throughout Northwest Indiana.

JACK KNIGHT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jack Knight for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jack Knight is a 9th grader at Stanley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jack Knight is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jack Knight for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH (LISA) JOYCE FREEMAN ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the hard work and dedication of Lisa Freeman who retires today after many years of service to our nation's veterans.

For the last five years Lisa Freeman served as the Director of the Veterans Health Care System in Palo Alto, one of the largest, busiest veterans health centers in our country. She did the job with enthusiasm, efficiency and compassion. As director she was responsible for overseeing the complex needs of thousands of veterans, administering an annual budget of more than \$1 billion, a capital budget of \$2.67 billion, and organizing upwards of 7,000 staff and volunteers. She was so expert in doing her job that when the sad news of mismanagement at the veterans system in Arizona became public, it was Lisa Freeman that the Secretary of the VA tapped to make corrections in reforming the Arizona shortfalls. In the end, the entire VA health care system learned from her competence and management prowess.

But I best know Lisa Freeman from the yeoman's work she did to help create the first from-the-ground-up joint DOD-VA health clinic in my district.

For years the military community—veterans, active and retired military and their families—all knew options for health care were limited on the Central Coast in general and on the Monterey Peninsula, where there are numerous military installations, in particular. Under the leadership of the late Maj. Gen. William "Bill" Gourley, slowly a plan took shape to create a clinic that would serve the dual purposes of our active and retired military servicemen as well as our veterans. Lisa Freeman became an integral part of this effort and took over leadership of the effort as time went along, helping to coordinate the many federal sub-agencies necessary to make the dream of this clinic a reality.

I am happy to say the ribbon cutting for that clinic will be this October, in no short measure due to the perseverance of Lisa Freeman.

Mr. Speaker, Lisa Freeman will be missed by all of us who interact with the Palo Alto Veterans Health Care System. I am especially grateful to her for all she's done for the veterans in my district and across all of Cali-

fornia. I commend her to you and to our colleagues in the House and hope you will all wish her well as she leaves government service for a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING ERIN HURLEY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Erin Hurley of Marin County, California, for her selection as the Classified Employee of the Year at the 2016 Golden Bell Awards Ceremony, presented by the Marin County Office of Education in collaboration with the Marin County School Board Association and other local civic organizations. An occupational therapist, Ms. Hurley has dedicated more than two decades to improving the health and welfare of students in Marin County.

For the past 15 years, Ms. Hurley has worked at Marindale Early Intervention, where she serves more than 100 students facing a critical time in their development. A student-centered professional, she advocates for appropriate placements and the implementation of strategies specific for each child. She also works to educate staff and parents on body mechanics and ergonomics for themselves and for their students and children.

Ms. Hurley works hard to develop relationships with each of the young people she works with. Along with understanding students' specific motor abilities and behavioral and communication goals, she makes an effort to create a comfortable and safe environment where students feel comfortable challenging themselves.

The Golden Bell Awards celebrate public education in Marin County by recognizing outstanding teachers and supportive community partners. Each year, they select an exemplary educator, classified employee, teacher, and trustee for recognition.

Mr. Speaker, it is therefore fitting that we honor and thank Erin Hurley for her contributions to students and public education in Marin County and California.

VALERIE GRASSO

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Valerie Bailey Grasso. Ms. Grasso retired earlier this year, concluding a remarkable 32 years of federal civil service with the Department of the Navy, the Library of Congress, and the Congressional Research Service (CRS). For the last 18 years, she has served as a defense acquisition policy analyst in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the CRS, rising to Specialist, the highest grade attainable. While at the CRS, she supplied Members of Congress, their personal staffs, and the staffs of congressional committees with consistently high quality insights, policy analysis, and historical context. I personally relied on reports she authored on topics